

Hafa Adai!

Drought in the Marianas to intensify. **PAGE 2**

IPI: Gray's requests for sanctions should be denied. **PAGE 4**

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Norita

Issuance of tax refunds may start by mid-May

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Division of Revenue and Taxation is looking at issuing tax refunds by mid-May, according to Department of Finance Secretary Tracy B. Norita.

See **REFUNDS** on Page 4

Palacios to testify in forgery trial against parole chief

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Palacios

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios is set to appear before the Superior Court as a witness next week in the bench trial of chief parole officer Nick Masga Reyes who is accused of forgery and misconduct in public office.

Last Tuesday, Superior
See **FORGERY** on Page 4



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Rep. Marissa Renee Flores (Ind-Saipan) addresses Commonwealth Casino Commission commissioners during the CCC board's special meeting Tuesday last week that revocation of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's exclusive gaming license is appropriate and necessary.

Mendiola admits 'prejudice' in IPI revocation matter

- » **Chua: CNMI required IPI to do impossible things and IPI on its own stupidity agreed**
- » **Flores: Palacios should remove CCC commissioners if they will not revoke IPI's casino license**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Casino Commission commissioner Martin Mendiola has acknowledged he is

prejudiced in the case whether to revoke or not Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's exclusive gaming license and that his prejudice is based on what is the best

See **MENDIOLA** on Page 4



DeLeon Guerrero

DeLeon Guerrero fails to get info from bank on \$200M ARPA funds

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) has

failed to get information that she requested from Bank of Guam related to the \$200-million American Rescue Plan Act funds that the previous administration de-

posited in a trust account.

In response to *Saipan Tribune's* inquiry, DeLeon Guerrero said on Tuesday that the BOG attorney did reply to her request, stating the

need to get consent from its client, the CNMI government, or for her get consent from the court.

In her Freedom of Information
See **ARPA** on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL

The community is invited to attend its Saipan Community School's Annual Art Show and Young Writers Showcase today, April 18, from 5:30pm to 7pm at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan in Garapan.

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BUSINESS

La Mesa Kusina, the island's main Filipino and Mexican fusion restaurant, held a grand opening for its relocated location in Garapan last April 6.

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LIFE & STYLE

We were already living in an era teeming with remixes and repurposing, fan fictions and mashups. Then began a parade of characters and stories, led by Winnie the Pooh and Mickey Mouse with many more to follow, marching into the public domain, where anyone can do anything with anything and shape it into a new generation of stories and ideas.

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Drought in the Marianas to intensify

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The National Weather Service based off Tiyan, Guam reports that drought in the Marianas will continue to intensify while extreme drought persists for other islands in Micronesia.

According to NWS' weekly regional outlook report, although the Marianas remains in D-2 (or severe drought), drought conditions will only continue to worsen due to on-

going dry weather conditions.

Meanwhile, extreme to exceptional drought (D-3 to D-4) persists across islands of Yap State, Majuro, and the northern Marshall Islands.

"In the long term, below-normal rainfall is expected for at least the next few weeks, and likely a couple more months across parts of Yap State and the northern RMI. The convergence along the near-equatorial trough (NET) is bringing relief to

Palau and parts of Yap State. However, Yap Proper, Ulithi, and Faris in Yap State were just north of the heavier showers and showers will struggle to lift north to these islands, providing little relief to these islands. Models also show the convergence zone in eastern Micronesia rebuilding later this week, increasing the potential for showers across Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae States, and islands in the RMI near and south of 10N, while

providing little relief to the Wotje and other atolls in the northern RMI," NWS states.

Because of the current drought conditions, NWS warns that there remains a high chance of wildfires occurring in the Marianas as well as the entire Micronesia.

"A high wildfire threat remains for islands in ongoing dry conditions, particularly the Marianas and Yap Proper, though winds are currently on the lighter side and are expected to remain on the lighter side this week. Remember: all wildfires in our region are

human-caused, and conditions are particularly dangerous during prolonged dry, sunny weather, and windy conditions," said NWS.

In related news, NWS reports that the Marianas will be experiencing relatively dry pattern through early next week as the active trade-wind pattern remains to the south.

Gentle to moderate trades will prevail over the coastal waters with combined seas of

5 to 8 feet. At the beach, there is a moderate risk of rip currents for north- and east-facing reefs and beaches. Seas and surf will change very little through the end of the week.

In addition, NWS states that fire danger remains high due to the lack of rainfall and will become extreme if strong winds occur.

"However, winds are expected to be on the lighter side this week," said NWS.

EARTHQUAKE BRIEFS

4.9-magnitude quake in Marianas

At 3:39am on April 15, 2024, a 4.9-magnitude earthquake occurred in the Mariana Islands region. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center.

For more information, please contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at (670) 237-8000. **(PR)**

6.7-magnitude quake near Agrihan

At 9:03pm on April 5, 2024, an earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.7 occurred about 23 miles north of Agrihan. Some areas in the Marianas may have experienced shaking.

Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center.

For more information, please contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at (670) 237-8000. **(PR)**

4.9-magnitude quake in Marianas

At 5:29am on April 5, 2024, a 4.9-magnitude earthquake occurred in the Mariana Islands region. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center.

For more information, please contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at (670) 237-8000. **(PR)**

OIA now accepting applications from US territories for energy projects

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs announced proposals are now being accepted for the Energizing Insular Communities grant program for fiscal year 2024. The total funding available to the territories is \$15.25 million. Those eligible to ap-

ply are local government entities, independent authorities, and institutions of higher education located in the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The deadline to apply through Grants.gov is June 14, 2024.

"We are pleased to announce that OIA's EIC 2024 funds are now available to support the territories in their respective sustainable energy strategies, whether that is reducing reliance on imported fuels, exploring local energy sources, or improving overall energy infrastructure and usage," said Carmen G. Cantor, assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs. "We encourage potential applicants to submit applications for consideration as soon as possible."

Each proposal will be reviewed and evaluated for two

important criteria:

1) whether the proposal is directly tied to the territory's respective strategic energy plan, energy action plan or integrated resource plan; and,

2) whether there is a projected energy cost savings.

All applications should be submitted through either GrantSolutions.gov or Grants.gov—where the EIC grant is listed under the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number 15.875. For additional information visit <https://www.doi.gov/oia/financial-assistance>. **(PR)**



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP24-CHCC/GSS-011

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: APRIL 30TH, 2024 **TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)**

TRASH COLLECTION SERVICES


INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS INVITATION TO BID FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.HEALTH). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

A MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING AND ON-SITE ASSESSMENT WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 3RD, 2024 AT 9:00AM AT THE CHC CONTINUING EDUCATION ROOM RIGHT BEFORE THE CAFETERIA.


THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY



DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES • CNMI GOVERNMENT



INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB24-BECQ/DEQ-42400080

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 7, 2024 **TIME: 09:00 A.M.**

"PURCHASE OF TWO (2) CLASS 'F' VEHICLES FOR BECQ/DEQ, SAIPAN"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (<https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/>) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BLDG NO. 12552, ANATAHAN DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL & COASTAL QUALITY BY APRIL 26, 2024, TO MR. ELI CABRERA VIA EMAIL AT eli.cabrera@becq.gov.mp

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ELI D. CABRERA
ADMINISTRATOR, BECQ

/S/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS JR.
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION



INVITATION TO BID
ITB24-CHCC/PHS-PRAMS-012

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES
PREGNANCY RISK ASSESSMENT MONITORING SYSTEMS (PRAMS)

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MAY 13, 2024 **TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)**

"LEASE OF VEHICLE"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS INVITATION TO BID FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.HEALTH). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

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For more information, call
(670) 323-2647 in Saipan, (670) 433-2647 in Tinian, or (670) 532-2647 in Rota.

Paid for by official funds authorized by the U.S. House of Representatives.



SSHS students welcome MTEC, MVA

Students of Saipan Southern High School's Hospitality & Tourism Class welcomed representatives of the Marianas Tourism Education Council and Marianas Visitors Authority last April 10 to talk tourism.

The outreach team is engaging 4th graders, 7th graders, and 10th graders this year on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota with information and activities highlighting the Marianas' primary economic driver, how it impacts their lives, and ways students can support tourism even at

a young age. By special invitation, the team visited the class of instructor Elena Gersonde. Turning the tables on the tourism educators, the students—who are working to earn national certification from the American Hotel & Lodging Educational Institute—asked a number of questions.

“What made you choose this career? What was your first job in the tourism industry?”

MTEC chair Vicky Benavente shared about getting her first job at Hyatt Regency Saipan.

“Newly married with one toddler, I started working in the HR department of Hyatt Regency Saipan,” she told students.

“What are your favorite events? What are your favorite places to visit?”

MVA Community Projects specialist Jack Aranda shared that, as an event coordinator, he finds all events held by the MVA exciting and fun.

“If there was one event I do enjoy most, it is Christmas in the Marianas,” Aranda told students. “The reason would be, seeing all the effort and practice students put into

their performance, as well as seeing their support crew such as their family around to cheer for them. And one of my favorite places to visit is Japan. The food is great, Japan is just beautiful place, and their people are very polite and respectful.”

“Any advice for us (high school students)? What’s your prediction of our tourism industry?”

MTEC board member Catherine Perry encouraged students to keep to their cultural value of respect—for self, others, and the natural and material world—as an important value for success in the 21st century. She ob-

served that proper long-term planning would be needed to ensure that the development of the Marianas for tourism is sustainable, attractive, and beneficial for the environment and the community.


The presentation also includes an overview of programs and activities of the MVA, including its annual signature events like next month’s Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival.

In line with this year’s school outreach theme, “Green Spaces, Memorable Places/Kâmpun Betdi, Kâmpun Rikuetdu/Llingil Leyil Walúwal,” MTEC highlighted the importance of the

Marianas’ natural beauty in attracting visitors.

Other MTEC board members are vice chair Glenn Policare (Kanoa Resort), secretary Martin Duenas (MVA), treasurer Larissa Larson, Dr. Galvin Guerrero (Northern Marianas College), Larry Lee, Naomi Nishimura (CNMI Public School System), Gordon Marciano (Pacific Development Inc.), and Dr. Yunzi Zhang (NMC).

Schools interested in starting a MY WAVE Club to engage students with tourism may contact Aranda at jaranda@mymarianas.com or (670) 664-3200 for more information. **(PR)**



NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Western Pacific Telecom Service Co.

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Western Pacific Telecom Service Co. proposes to utilize a space measuring **16.11' (L) x 16.10' (W) x 11.10' (H)** for its "Office Use." This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on **Tract No. 21714-1-1** in the village of As Lito. This area is zoned as Village Residential.


A public hearing will be held on:

Date: May 2, 2024
Time: 2:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3pm, May 1, 2024. Please send written comments via e-mail to zoningboard@cnmizoning.com, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, at 5911 Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Laulau (former IT&E).


For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/
Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY CNMI GOVERNMENT

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 |
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com



NOTICE OF INVITATION FOR BID

Automated Teller Machine
FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Project No.: CPA-IFB-006-24
CPA Concession No.: SAT-2024-01

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the "CPA") is accepting sealed bids, subject to the terms and conditions of the Invitation for Bid (the "IFB"), and other contract provisions, for bids from firms, companies, and/or corporations to provide Automated Teller Machine at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

The IFB will be issued and available for pick-up beginning March 15, 2024, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, at the Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Building, Saipan International Airport. CPA offices are closed on its austeriety days and holidays. The IFB includes a layout and requirements. All responses to this IFB shall also take into account any and/or all costs that will be charged to the bidder awarded the contract for the project. Prospective bidders will be required to pay an administrative fee of \$100.00 for costs associated with handling and consideration of the bid.

Questions and/or clarification concerning this project shall be in writing and sent to the attention of the Executive Director through email at cpa.admin@cpicom.com with copy to Joy Ann Tenorio at joy.tenorio@cnmiports.com no later than April 2, 2024.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **"INVITATION FOR BID SUBMISSION: CONFIDENTIAL, AUTOMATED TELLER MACHINE SERVICES, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY CPA-IFB-006-24."** One (1) original and two (2) copies of the bid must be submitted no later than **3:00 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time, April 18, 2024**, to the Authority Administration Section, Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

Bids will be opened on April 18, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. at the Meeting Room, Saipan International Airport. Bids are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee. The concessions are for the right to provide Automated Teller Machine services at a certain designated location within the Saipan International Airport for a period of five (5) years and requires the concessionaire to operate such concession to the satisfaction of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so, would be in CPA's best interest. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All bids shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

Date



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IPI: Gray's requests for sanctions should be denied

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC argues that the federal court should deny creditor Joshua Gray's requests for sanctions (including contempt) against the casino investor and its director Howyo Chi, claiming that they

have done everything possible to comply with court orders. Last week, IPI creditor Joshua Gray, through attorney Aaron Halegua, filed a petition to show cause against IPI and Chi asking that U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona order IPI and its director to show cause why they shouldn't be

held in contempt for failing to comply with a court order pursuant to an ongoing limited receivership. Specifically, the petition claims that on Oct. 23, 2023, the court issued an order directing IPI to ensure and fund the security of its personal property until it is sold by limited receiver Clear

Management and delivered to the buyer. However, the plaintiff argues that IPI and its management failed to comply with the court's order in terms of security when it was discovered that liquor had been stolen from the casino.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

MENDIOLA

From page 1

option that they can offer the CNMI as a whole. Speaking during the second day of the CCC board's special meeting on Wednesday last week, Mendiola said his prejudice is not because of what people are writing down about the case or the commissioners or what Gov. Arnold I. Palacios or anybody else is saying.

"My prejudice is can we formulate something that is going to be good for the future of the CNMI," he said. Mendiola said it's very unfortunate because his term as a commissioner is ending on April 30, 2024. He said he is praying that something is going to happen with the ongoing settlement discussions with CCC executive director Andrew Yeom and IPI, so that they all can contribute "to a positive moving forward."

The CCC board has granted Yeom's request for an additional 10 business days, or until April 22, 2024, to complete the final details of a proposed settlement agreement with IPI. Mendiola said in order for him to discharge that responsibility as a member of the commission board, he needs to know that he can count on the process that they're going through and that things are very clear in terms of what to expect with them

(Yeom and IPI). The commissioner said, ultimately, they have to discharge their responsibility in terms of whether to continue with the revocation or not. He pointed out that like Yeom was saying, his mind has always been how they can resolve all these issues with IPI so that they can get this casino industry going again.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

ARPA

From page 1

Act request to BOG official Amoretta Carlson last March 18, DeLeon Guerrero asked for information pertaining to the trust account that the current administration had closed on Jan. 11, 2023, or earlier.

The Senate president said she had requested Gov. Arnold I. Palacios on different occasions to grant this consent but has yet to receive it. "In the spirit of transparency and accountability, we have to move forward with the work of the special committee on this matter," DeLeon Guerrero said. Last week, DeLeon Guerrero

created a special committee to investigate the \$200 million in ARPA funds that was invested by the previous administration into a BOG trust account. She had also requested Finance Secretary Tracy B. Norita last March 18 for information pertaining to the \$200 million deposited in trust account and for a copy of the

ARPA spending plan and any changes to it that had been approved by the U.S. Treasury. Norita said during a press briefing on Monday last week that the \$200 million in ARPA funds was indeed invested by the previous administration in 2021 and the entire amount was withdrawn and depleted in 2022.

FORGERY

From page 1

Court Clerk of Court Patrick Diaz issued a witness summons for Palacios summoning the governor to appear before Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho on April 22, for the bench trial of Reyes. "This summons is issued upon the application of the Office of the Attorney General for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Failure to comply with this summons may constitute the crime of contempt of court and a warrant may be issued for your arrest," the summons states. Aside from Palacios, Diaz

has issued a summons for Rebecca Wiggins, Lucinda Selepeo, Ikluk Masayos, and Chris Guerrero; all of whom are mandated to appear before Camacho next Monday, April 22. According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, assistant attorney general James Kingman filed last February two separate cases against Reyes: one count of misconduct in public office and four counts of forgery. Reyes allegedly forged and altered, on or about Dec. 20, 2023, the terms of employment of a person from 30 days to one year. This offense is punishable by imprisonment of not more than five years.



A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

REFUNDS

From page 1

In response to *Saipan Tribune's* follow-up questions about tax refunds, Norita said yesterday that they don't have the numbers yet until they are closer to May as to how much they are going to issue and how many tax filers are in the first batch. "Right now, we are just in data entry and testing mode," she said. At a press briefing last week, Norita said tax season is

ongoing and that people must have heard of the extension of hours at DRT. She said DRT has opened services up to 6pm for tax filing and payment. The secretary said DRT has ongoing system development for a new tax system and they are shifting resources to ensure that they are on schedule to issue tax refunds. "We're looking at mid-May. So, we're working really hard. We are processing those [tax] returns and we are looking forward to issuing money out to the public," Norita said.



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-24-018

CALCIUM HYPOCHLORITE POTABLE WATER DISINFECTION SYSTEMS, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE AND SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF CALCIUM HYPOCHLORITE FOR SAIPAN and ROTA

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Supply, Delivery, Installation & Maintenance of Calcium Hypochlorite potable water disinfection systems and supply & delivery of calcium hypochlorite for Saipan and Rota, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-24-018, Calcium Hypochlorite Potable Water Disinfection Systems, Delivery, Installation, and Maintenance and Supply & Delivery of Calcium Hypochlorite for Saipan and Rota" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) May 9, 2024** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A *Bid Guarantee* of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*


This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 24, 2024** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Rodolfo Rodriguez, CUC Drinking Water & Wastewater Division Manager, via email address rodolfo.rodriguez@cucgov.org and Christie L. Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Senior Administrative Technician via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 06-2024

Opening date: April 15, 2024

Closing date: May 03, 2024

Location: SAIPAN	SALARY
Position(s): (1) Staff Engineer	UNGRADED
Nature of Work	
Highly responsible for all engineering programs and activities of CPA.	

This employee is responsible for the management and supervision of engineering programs and activities at the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA). Work is technical in nature and reviewed through conferences with the Executive Director or his designee and submission of reports. Employee exercises independent judgment in solutions to situations or problems in which no precedents exist. This position is unclassified.

Minimum Qualifications

Graduation from high school (or G.E.D.) and a four (4) year degree in civil engineering from an accredited U.S. college or university with no less than five (5) years of progressively responsible experience in a professional engineering level of which three (3) years pertain to supervisory experience.

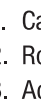
Shall have no record of felony or criminal conviction.

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the **CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport**. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Friday, May 03, 2024**.

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays and austerity, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin, Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

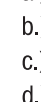
CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director



**Commonwealth Zoning Board
Board Meeting**

Thursday, May 02, 2024 | 2:00 PM
Multi-Purpose Center • Susupe, Saipan
Tel: 670-234-9661/2 • Fax: 670-234-9666
E-mail: ZoningBoard@cnmzoning.com



AGENDA

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of 05/02/24 Meeting Agenda
4. Adoption of 04/25/2024 Meeting Minutes
5. Communications
6. Public Comments (not for items to be discussed in item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings:

1. **Conditional Use Application #2024-0892** – Western Pacific Telecom Service Co. proposes to utilize a space measuring **16.11' (L) x 16.1 (W)** within an existing residential duplex for its "Office Use". This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Tract No. 21714-1-1 in the village of As Lito. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

C. Old Business

1. None

D. New Business

1. To correct the zoning districts on Zoning Map sheet 27 of 29 for Lot # 005 I 587, Lot # 005 I 588, Lot #005 I 589, Lot # 005 I 590, and Lot # 005 I 586 from Public Resource to Village Residential (as authorized under Section 1309 of the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013)

E. Report from Zoning Administrator

1. Operations (Permitting and Enforcement)
2. Office Updates

F. Report from Legal Counsel

G. Executive Session

H. Miscellaneous

1. Board discussion on:
 - a.) Status of EnerGov system
 - b.) Policy on Zoning Clearance Fees and Permits
 - c.) Standard Improvements on Customer Service
 - d.) Public disclosure of Administrative Reports prior to Board Review in duly published Board meetings

I. Announcements

J. Adjournment

/s/Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950Mark Rabago EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Iran's attack failed. Its threat to peace remains

Though largely thwarted by Israel and its allies, the assault launched by Iran against the Jewish state over the weekend was a powerful reminder that the Tehran regime remains the biggest threat to peace in the Middle East. Israel's security would be best served now through resolve and restraint, rather than military escalation.

Iranian leaders tried to portray Saturday's attack as a proportional response to a presumed Israeli strike that killed a top Iranian commander and several advisers in Damascus, Syria, on April 1. The operation involved more than 300 drones and cruise and ballistic missiles, with Iran attacking Israel from its own territory for the first time. The assault dramatically increased the risk of a regionwide war, even if Iran hoped the matter was now "concluded."

In military terms, Iran's attack was a failure. Israeli and US forces, with help from the UK, France, Jordan and possibly some of Israel's other Arab neighbors, shot down an estimated 99% of the incoming missiles and drones, most of them before they reached Israeli airspace. Rather than reinforcing Israel's isolation, the attack illustrated how strong its alliances remain despite anger over its conduct of the war against Hamas in Gaza. President Joe Biden rightly vowed "ironclad" support for Israel's defense, even as he pressures Israeli leaders to ease conditions for Gazans.

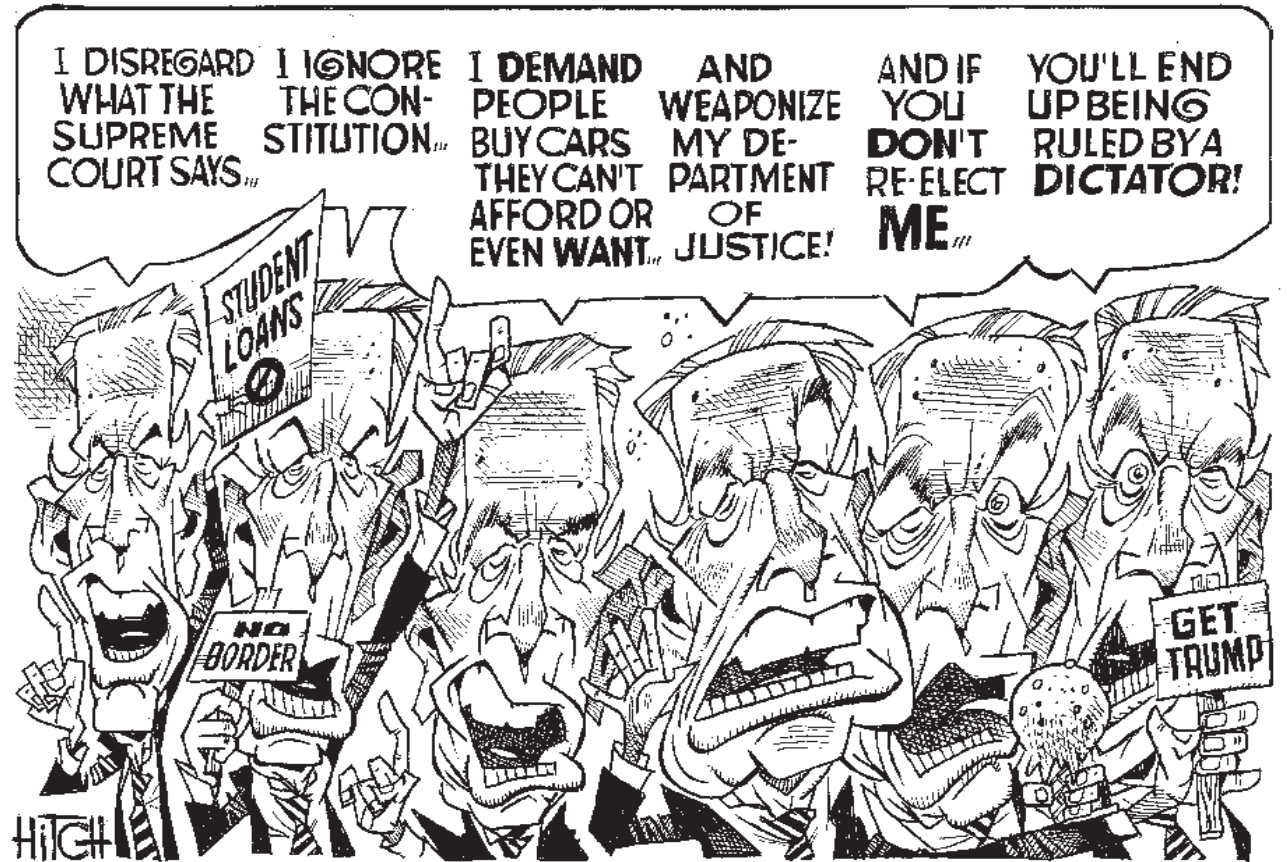
Like any state, Israel reserves the right to respond to a direct assault on its territory. But a tit-for-tat strike on Iran would cast Israel once again as the aggressor, jeopardizing the support of Europe and even the US. Meanwhile, the war in Gaza is far from finished, with top Hamas leaders still free and more than 100 Israeli hostages in captivity. The border with Lebanon remains unsettled, preventing thousands of Israelis from returning to their homes in the north. After months of fighting, Israel's military is stretched.

The obvious strength of Israel's defenses should serve as some deterrent against future Iranian attacks. Covert action by Israel has had success degrading Iran's nuclear program and its network of militant proxies and could be used again.

Most important, restraint would allow Israel and its supporters to capitalize on the moment, not least by reminding Arab neighbors where their true interests lie. The failed strikes underscore the danger Iran poses to them as well as to Israel. Iran's nuclear advances—it can now assemble enough fissile material for several bombs within weeks—threaten a regional arms race. Its proxies have attacked the Saudi and Gulf monarchies in the past; the détente they have struck with Tehran is unlikely to last. In foiling the weekend attack, the US and Israel have demonstrated to Arab leaders just how useful they can be as partners.

The Biden administration should seize this opportunity to further isolate Iran within the region and beyond. The US should work with its G-7 partners to refocus global attention on Iran's destructive behavior, including its continued support for militant groups like Hamas, its supply of drones and missiles to Russia for use against Ukraine, and its continued stonewalling of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Simultaneously, US officials should press ahead with efforts to revive a deal to normalize relations between Israel and Saudi Arabia, which could open the

See IRAN'S on Page 7



Joe Biden's empathy was his superpower in 2020. Can he find it again in 2024?

Whatever happened to the empathetic Joe Biden who won the 2020 presidential election?

Some days it feels as if that kindly Uncle Joe has been replaced by a cranky old pol annoyed at voters who don't give him credit for a strong economy.

Last week, when the Labor Department reported that inflation had ticked up to 3.5%, probably delaying a cut in interest rates, Biden didn't offer much solace.

"We have dramatically reduced inflation from 9%," he said. "We're better situated than we were when we took office." That's true, but it's cold comfort to consumers and home buyers.

A week earlier, when a reporter asked Biden what he would tell Americans stressed by high prices, the president replied: "I'd say we have the best economy in the world. We have got to make it better."

It's a theme he's been sounding for months. In his State of the Union address, he extolled the U.S. economy as "the envy of the world."

But a chorus of Democratic strategists say it's the wrong message, mainly because it's missing the element that was once Biden's political superpower: empathy.

"You can't tell people they're better off than they think they are," said Mark Mellman, a veteran political consultant. "It's important to acknowledge their pain. Otherwise it comes across as a signal that you don't understand their lives."

"I wouldn't go out there and extol the miracle of the Biden economy," said David Axelrod, who helped Barack Obama win two presidential elections.

"The right strategy is to say, 'Look, we've made a lot of progress ... [but] the way people experience this economy is the way I did when I was growing up in Scranton, Pennsylvania,'" Axelrod said in an interview with conservative pundit Bill Kristol. "How much did you pay for the groceries? How do you afford the gas, the rent? These continue to be a problem and I'm fighting that fight."

"The message needs to start with empathy and focus on prices, which is the issue that matters most to voters," said Stanley Greenberg, who helped Bill Clinton win the presidency in 1992. Otherwise, he said, "people just get angrier and angrier."

During the 2020 campaign, when Americans were reeling from the human and economic costs of the COVID-19 pandemic, Biden spoke often of his personal history—his upbringing in a family of modest means, the death of his first wife and baby daughter in a 1972 highway crash, the 2015 death of his son Beau—and his feeling of kinship with others who suffered losses.

Biden's campaign wasn't shy about drawing attention to the contrast with then-President Trump, who seemed more intent on dismissing the pandemic's impact. "Empathy is on the ballot," Jill Biden, soon to be first lady, said on Twitter. But those empathetic moments seem to have become less frequent since Biden became president.

By DOYLE MCMANUS

Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times.



Biden does acknowledge that the economy still has problems, but not nearly as often as he stresses that his policies are succeeding.

"We have more to do. I get it," he said in Arizona last month. "But no question, our plan of delivering for the American people is working right now."

It's also true that the economy has been improving over the last two years, with strong growth, job creation and—in recent months—wage increases. When Biden took office in 2021, the economy had begun to recover from the pandemic, but unemployment was still over 6%. Since then, more than 15 million jobs have been created and the unemployment rate has stayed below 4% for more than two years.

But Biden has reaped little political benefit from those positive trends, mostly because inflation, which peaked at 9% in 2022, has led to persistently high prices and mortgage rates.

Voters are in a sour mood. An Economist/YouGov poll released last week found that 67% of Americans believe the country is "on the wrong track" and 39% believe the economy is in a recession. (It isn't.) Only 20% say they believe the economy will improve if Biden is reelected. Twice as many, 44%, said they believe the economy will get better if Trump wins.

The president still gets some credit for empathy, but less than before. In 2020, the Quinnipiac poll reported that 61% of voters said they believed Biden "cares about the average American"; this year, the same poll found that number had declined to 51%. (Trump trailed at 42% on the topic in both 2020 and this year.)

Inflation is a frustrating problem for any president. There's little he can do to reduce grocery or gas prices. A president isn't supposed to put pressure on the Federal Reserve to cut interest rates and probably wouldn't succeed if he tried.

So Biden has tried to show voters that he's doing the best he can, working to push prices down in areas where the federal government does have sway. One of his favorite talking points is his sponsorship of the 2022 law that allows Medicare to negotiate drug prices and capped the monthly cost of insulin at \$35; Biden says he'll try to expand the law's reach if he's reelected.

See JOE on Page 7

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Biden must again prevent a wider Middle East war

An eye for an eye leaves the whole world blind, as Mahatma Gandhi allegedly said. After Iran's massive retaliation for the Israeli strike against Iran's diplomatic compound in Damascus, it now falls to President Joe Biden to prevent subsequent rounds of escalation from blinding the entire Middle East, or even the world. Biden must punish Iran diplomatically but also restrain Israel.

This will be unfathomably hard. Since the sadistic terrorist attack by Hamas against Israel on Oct. 7, Biden has had to balance objectives that are often in conflict. He has to show his support for Israel, which he again reaffirmed as "ironclad" after Iran launched more than 300 drones and missiles against Israel this weekend. Simultaneously, he has to minimize the death and suffering of civilians in Gaza, a goal at which he has so far failed. And third, he has to stop the war from becoming regional or even global, a prospect that is possible because the militias attacking Israel are backed by Iran, which is aligned with Russia and China.

So far, Biden seemed to be successful in deterring Iran from escalating and expanding the war. When Iran-backed militias killed three American service members in Jordan, the US retaliated with force but also restraint, hitting only Iranian assets outside of Iran. Tehran, for its part, signaled that it would also discipline itself—although the extent of its control over its proxies remains an open question.

It was instead Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu who initiated this month's round of escalation. Without informing Biden, he sent warplanes to destroy part of the Iranian diplomatic mission in Syria, killing several top commanders. This attack on the consulate breached the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, which deems diplomatic missions "inviolable."

The mullahs had to answer this strike or look weak to Tehran's proxy militias and Iranians, many of whom already loathe their regime. The only question was how. The retaliation had to be large enough to allow Iran to pose as decisive, but limited enough not to invite an even larger response from Netanyahu, who often seems to view a wider war as one scenario for him to stay in power.

How, then, did the actual Iranian retaliation stack up? The barrage of drones and missiles was huge, and the first direct attack from the Iranian homeland (as opposed to proxy forces in Lebanon, say) against Israeli soil. But Tehran knew that its airborne swarm would travel for hours before crashing into one of the world's most sophisticated air-defense systems—Israel's Iron Dome, Arrow and David's Sling. Moreover, Israel wouldn't be alone; its American and even Arab allies would help defend it, as they did.

The final tally, therefore, was as limited as Tehran had probably predicted: minor damage and about a dozen in-

By **ANDREAS KLUTH**
Bloomberg Opinion

Andreas Kluth is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering US diplomacy, national security and geopolitics. Previously, he was editor-in-chief of Handelsblatt Global and a writer for the Economist.



juries from falling shrapnel, with one girl in critical condition but nobody (as of this writing) dead. The Israeli, American, Jordanian and other air defenses had shot down 99% of the incoming ordnance.

So you can call the Iranian retaliation for the preceding Israeli strike massive or limited. But the mullahs signaled that they intended the latter. Invoking the United Nations Charter, Iran's mission to the UN tweeted that "the matter can be deemed concluded" and practically pleaded (in all-caps) with Biden that "the U.S. MUST STAY AWAY!"

Netanyahu and his far-right coalition partners may now be tempted to escalate further. Before the Iranian retaliation, he had warned that Israel would answer any hit on Israeli soil with strikes against the Iranian homeland. That in turn would force an Iranian response, while strengthening the hand of those in the regime pushing for Iran to sprint toward turning its enriched uranium into nuclear warheads.

It's therefore up to Biden to prevent the worst. He must restrain "Bibi" Netanyahu vis-a-vis Iran as he has so far failed to moderate him vis-a-vis the Gaza Strip. This means that any Israeli counterstrike, unlike the consular hit, has to be cleared with Washington and be limited enough so that both Iran and Israel can claim victory. Meanwhile, Biden must punish Iran in every way short of the military option. This he seems to be preparing to do, by calling emergency meetings of the Group of Seven and the UN Security Council.

Since Oct. 7, the Middle East, and by extension the globe, has teetered on the edge between various terrible but localized wars and a wider conflagration that may set the whole world ablaze. If anybody can prevent that nightmare, it's Biden.

My son was killed with a gun. Like too many California parents, I don't know who did it

Like a lot of parents, I've carried a picture of my son everywhere I go for many years. Unlike a lot of them, I have a child who never ages: My son George was shot and killed on July 17, 1996.

My photos of my son remind me of the days before I had to tell my grandson Gabriel, on what happened to be his 6th birthday, that his father had died. The scream I heard on the other end of the phone is one I wouldn't wish on my enemies.

Though I turned my pain into purpose as the president of the anti-gun-violence group Brady California, I trudge through every day with unanswered questions, one of which echoes the loudest: Who killed my son? That's because my son's killer has never been brought to justice.

Not knowing who killed George is unfathomably difficult but not unusual. California's statewide case clearance rate for homicides has been near or under 65% for the last decade. That means more than a third of the state's killings go unsolved, leaving families and communities to bury people they love without ever knowing who committed the crime. And many California cities and counties with disproportionately high gun violence rates have homicide clearance rates even lower than the state's underwhelming average.

Closure is restorative, healing our souls and communities. Knowing the full story of a killing can break cycles of violence and save lives in the process. But I and thousands of mothers, fathers and families in the Black and brown communities most affected by gun violence are denied that knowledge.

I lead the San Francisco chapter of Mothers in Charge, an organization of mothers, grandmothers, wives, sisters, girlfriends and other women who lost loved ones to senseless gun violence. Most of our members' cases remain unsolved. My friend Paula Dix, who leads the L.A. chapter of the group, lost her only son to a fatal shooting that remains unsolved 14 years later.

These unsolved cases perpetuate a vicious cycle of fear, violence and hopelessness. The perceived disinterest in tracking down a loved one's killer erodes trust in police. It may even lead some people to arm themselves, despite the risks of having a gun, because they feel the authorities can't or won't protect them.

By **MATTIE SCOTT**
Los Angeles Times

Mattie Scott is the president of Brady California and the founder of Healing 4 Our Families & Our Nation.



When this happens to one family, it's a tragedy. When it's amplified to an entire community touched by gun violence, it becomes a crisis. And Black Californians are feeling the weight of this crisis more than most: Research consistently shows that when a victim of gun violence is Black, cases are even less likely to be solved.

I'm thankful for Gov. Gavin Newsom's recent attention to this issue in announcing rewards for unsolved murders throughout the state. But we can go much further with legislation to ensure that fewer families know this pain.

Last week, I traveled to Sacramento with George's picture in my hands to advocate for L.A.-area Assemblymember Mike Gipson's bill to provide more transparency and justice for survivors like me. Assembly Bill 2913 would create a process for family members to request reviews of case files in unsolved homicides. Families deserve fresh reinvestigations of these so-called cold cases.

If we learn who pulled the trigger in more of these crimes, we can work backward through the lifespan of the firearms involved. We can seek accountability from gun sellers, push irresponsible dealers out of business and stanch the flow of illegal weapons into communities. And with restored trust in our government and justice systems, we can employ community violence intervention programs to bring us closer to a future free from gun violence.

By closing more gun homicide cases, we can make law enforcement part of the healing process, break the cycles killing the people we love and have more of the peace we deserve.

IRAN'S

From page 6

door to a broader and more unified coalition to contain Iran.

Israel's long-term security requires peaceful relations with its neighbors, including the Palestinians, coupled with containment of Iran and its proxies. Rigorous and assertive diplomacy is needed to accomplish those objectives and prevent a wider war.

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JOE

From page 6

But the critical strategists say there's more he can do, especially if he can reactivate his superpower.

"I think he can win with a message that starts with empathy, saying 'I know high prices are killing people,' and goes on to talk about higher taxes for billionaires and corporations," Greenberg said. "Let Joe be Joe."






"Bottom line: Be more like Joe from Scranton and less like President Biden from Washington," Axelrod said.

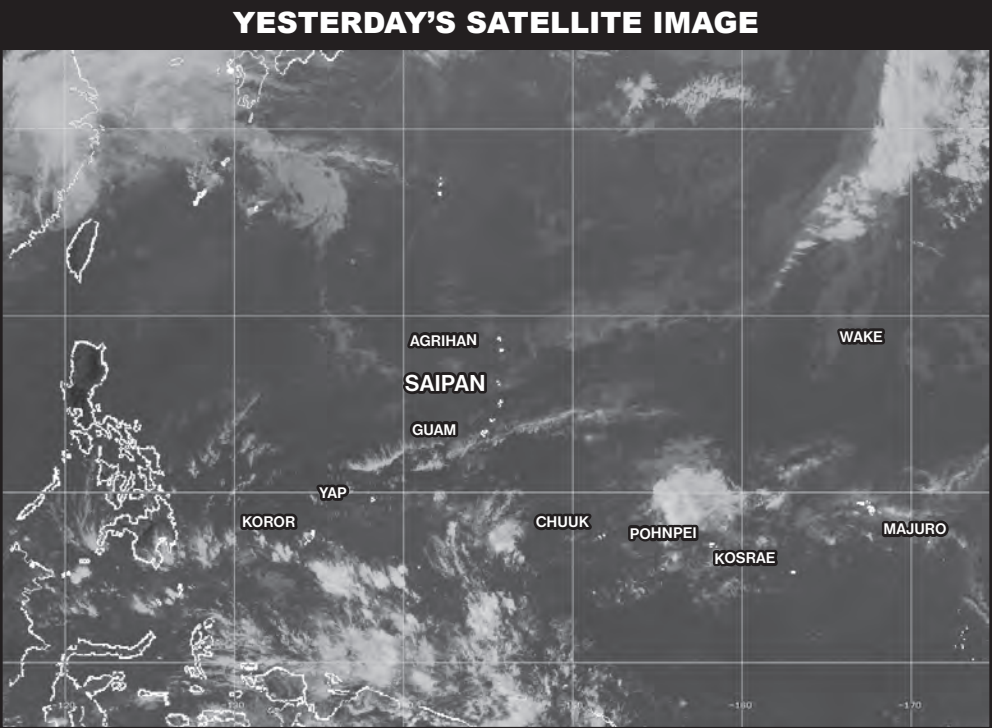
Biden aides say, sometimes in unprintable language, that they don't need so much free advice. Politico reported last year that the president called Axelrod "a prick."

And yet, they might be listening.

This week, Biden is launching a three-day "economy tour" of Pennsylvania, and he'll begin by talking about taxes. His first stop: Scranton.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with isolated light showers.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	
87°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°



PICTURE TIME: 5:16 AM WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A few low-level clouds along with some higher cirrus continue to cross the region this morning. Seas continue to hold in the 6 to 7 foot range.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Fair	89° / 78°	
Palau	Light Rain Shower	85° / 80°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	89° / 79°	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	88° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Cloudy	88° / 78°	
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 79°	
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 82°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:00 AM	6:31 PM
Friday	6:00 AM	6:32 PM
Saturday	5:59 AM	6:32 PM
Sunday	5:59 AM	6:32 PM
Monday	5:58 AM	6:32 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	2:25 AM	2:06 PM
Friday	-	3:02 AM	2:53 PM
Saturday	-	3:36 AM	3:40 PM
Sunday	-	4:09 AM	4:25 PM
Monday	-	4:42 AM	5:11 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	70° / 63°	
Beijing	Fair	79° / 48°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	86° / 77°	
Honolulu	Fair	82° / 71°	
London	Partly Cloudy	70° / 46°	
Los Angeles	Clear	79° / 52°	
Manila	Fair	96° / 79°	
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	68° / 52°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	79° / 73°	
New York	Clear	72° / 54°	
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	76° / 52°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	73° / 55°	
Busan	Mostly Cloudy	70° / 52°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	70° / 48°	
Salem	Clear	83° / 55°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	59° / 51°	
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	70° / 46°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	75° / 62°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	76° / 58°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
5:09 AM	High Tide	1.71	
11:01 AM	Low Tide	1.09	
3:35 PM	High Tide	1.44	
10:34 PM	Low Tide	0.36	

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 1, 2024

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:10AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA184	10:25PM	4:10AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily	UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	6:10AM	Daily	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

UOG student Laxamana named Truman Scholar

Julie Ann L. Laxamana, a senior Criminal Justice and Biology major at the University of Guam, has been selected for the 2024 Truman Scholarship. Laxamana is one of 60 students from 54 U.S. colleges and universities named Truman Scholars this year.

Laxamana is the 21st Truman Scholar from UOG.

"I'm thankful to the Harry S. Truman Foundation for this opportunity and to my mentors at UOG, Dr. Gena Rojas and Dr. Ron McNinch, for their support throughout this process and my time as a UOG student. I am very humbled and honored."

The Truman Scholarship,

a highly competitive and prestigious scholarship, was established by the U.S. Congress in 1975 as the living memorial to President Harry S. Truman. Laxamana can use the \$30,000 scholarship to pursue a master's degree at some of the nation's top universities for public service and administration.

According to a press release from the foundation, "Truman Scholars demonstrate outstanding leadership potential, a commitment to a career in government or the nonprofit sector, and academic excellence. Each Truman Scholar receives funding for graduate studies, leadership

training, career counseling, and special internship and fellowship opportunities within the federal government."

Laxamana also serves on the UOG Board of Regents as the Student Regent. She was recently named a Congressional Award Gold Medal recipient. The Congressional Award website states that Gold Medal winners "have committed themselves to at least two years to goal-setting and community involvement.



Laxamana

To earn the award, a participant must log a minimum of 400 hours of Voluntary Public Service, 200 hours of Personal Development, 200 hours of Physical Fitness, and a five-day, four-night Expedition or Exploration."

"We are immensely proud of Julie. It's truly amazing to see our students achieve on the national stage," said UOG President Anita Borja Enriquez. "Her accomplishments highlight not only her leadership capacity, hard work ethic, and commitment to academic excellence, but also the in-

valuable mentorship from our dedicated faculty. UOG is shaping leaders ready to make a meaningful impact."

Truman Scholars from the University of Guam:

- Joaquin V. Leon Guerrero – 1978
- Maria Nancy V. Guhit – 1979
- Marie T. Deloso – 1983
- John Jerry Ignacio – 1985
- Leilana V. Lujan – 1986
- Demian M. Fitzgerald – 1988
- Duane M. George – 1989
- Jesse T. San Nicolas – 1990
- Mary Grace Mendo-

- za-Lapid – 2000
- Donna L. Gomez – 2001
- Gena A. Rojas – 2002
- Willian B. Cruz-Jones – 2004
- JakinDee M. Aguon-Perez – 2005
- Sahara June Defensor – 2006
- Elvira Manglona – 2007
- Jose Salas Cruz, Jr. – 2009
- Rebecca Casimbon – 2015
- Athena McNinch -2017
- Kehani Mendiola – 2021
- Christian Gyles Ramos – 2023
- Julie Ann L. Laxamana – 2024 (PR)

Camacho Scholarship Foundation awardees announced for GCC



GCC

Guam Community College Marketing & Accounting student Renz Tolentino (center in red) was awarded a \$750 scholarship from the Felix M. & Governor Carlos G. Camacho Scholarship Foundation. Also awarded at \$750 scholarship is GCC student Katarina Hernandez (not pictured in photo), Liberal Studies-Business track major. Present for the check presentation were, from left, Jeffery Schindler, president and CEO, PFC Development; Rose P. Grino, vice chairperson, GCC Board of Trustees; Dr. Mary A. Y. Okada, GCC president and CEO; Frank P. Camacho, president and CEO, PFC Finance; Tolentino; Carlos Camacho, Community Relations manager, PFC; Bonnie Datuin, program specialist, Alumni Relations & Fundraising; and Lin H. Perez, president and CEO, PFC Insurance.

The Felix M. and Governor Carlos G. Camacho Scholarship Foundation awarded two Guam Community College students with \$750 scholarships for the Spring 2024 semester, bringing the scholarship total to \$1,500. The scholarships were presented to Renz Tolentino and Katarina Hernandez by Carlos P. Camacho, Community Relations manager, PFC Shared Services; Frank P. Camacho, president and CEO, PFC Finance; Lin Perez, president and CEO, PFC Insurance; and Jeff Schindler, president and CEO, PFC Development.

Tolentino is a double major in Marketing and Accounting. Hernandez is a Liberal Studies-Business track major and she is expected to graduate from GCC this May.

The scholarship foundation has always been a generous partner of GCC in getting business students into the classroom without having to worry about how they will pay

for their education.

The foundation's mission is to provide financial assistance for students pursuing business administration degrees at GCC and the University of Guam with the expectation that the Foundation will invest in the future leaders of the island community.

Applicants must maintain a 3.0 grade point average, full-time status, and be enrolled in the Liberal Studies-Business track, Accounting, Marketing, or Supervision and Management Associate degree program. An applicant's status as a first-generation student attending college plays a major consideration in selection.

The foundation anticipates awarding two scholarships at the end of each school year. An announcement will be made at a later date on when they will begin accepting applications. To learn more about the Felix M. & Governor Carlos G. Camacho Scholarship Foundation log on to guamcc.edu/scholarships. (PR)

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Steven "Steve" James Marron

DECEMBER 10, 1962 - APRIL 14, 2024

IN STEVE'S NEW LIFE, HE IS GREETED AND WELCOMED BY HIS:

PARENTS: PEGGY & BOB MARRON
MOTHER IN-LAW: FUJIKO NGIRAILILD
BROTHER IN-LAW: FREDDY NGIRAILILD, JOHN ICHIRO

STEVE'S LOVE AND MEMORIES WILL FOREVER BE IN THE HEARTS OF HIS FAMILY:

WIFE: MARILYN NGIRAILILD MARRON
CHILDREN: ROBERT MARRON & REIKA MARRON, STEVEN MARRON & YUKI MARRON, KEISHA MARRON & ROLDAN ALCOBENDAS
GRANDCHILDREN: KAI MARRON AND ELILAI MARRON
BROTHER: JOHN MARRON
SISTER: KITTY DRUMMOND
FATHER AND MOTHER IN-LAW: MARINO & NANCY BELLS

BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN-LAW:

KATHLEEN TAUKOLO, ROGER MAI, MELVIN RENGULBAI, JESSE ICHIRO, TIKEI SAGON, PATRICK AMON, JASON TARO, JULIA JOHANNES, OLDIAIS BELLS, UNGIL BELLS, ITU BELLS

HE WILL BE MISSED BY NUMEROUS AUNTS, UNCLES, NIECES, NEPHEWS, COUSINS, AND FRIENDS.

Funeral services and last respects for Steve will be held on Monday, April 22, 2024 at the Borja Funeral Home from 9:00a.m. to 11:00a.m.

The greatest comfort during our sorrow was the expression of sympathy conveyed to us in many ways. We deeply appreciate your kind thoughtfulness and thank you most sincerely. It will remain with us always.

THE MARRON FAMILY

Business

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

La Mesa Kusina holds Garapan grand opening

La Mesa Kusina, the island's main Filipino and Mexican fusion restaurant, held a grand opening for its relocated location in Garapan last April 6.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony took place with no less than Bishop Ryan P. Jimenez from the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa praying and blessing the grounds with holy water.

Shortly after the fiesta-like celebrations began, La Mesa Kusina brought out a special

grand opening "Promos of the Day"—Lechon Day (Lechon Tacos and Lechon Rice Bowls)—and patrons not only enjoyed the Filipino and Mexican hybrid cuisine, but also took in special performances by the High Tide Band, fun face painting, and vibed with the DJ to cap off the party.

"This is a prelude to our theme of #thedailyfiesta," said La Mesa Kusina operations manager Clint Albert.

Albert and owner John Saludez shared that in addition to adding Lechon Day, the restaurant will also now be serving several alcoholic beverages. In fact, Saipan Tap House shares an adjoining deck space—dubbed the Al Fresco Deck—with La Mesa Kusina and it served Beer on Tap during the grand opening.

Since the restaurant's soft opening when it moved from Chalan Kanoa to Garapan



CHRYSTAL MARINO

La Mesa Kusina operations manager Clint Albert and owner John Saludez, colleagues, staff, and Bishop Ryan Jimenez celebrate the restaurant's grand opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the restaurant in Garapan last April 6.



CHRYSTAL MARINO

La Mesa Kusina operations manager Clint Albert and owner John Saludez pose for a photo right before the restaurant's grand opening in Garapan last April 6.

A Beautiful Heart, A Constant Love

† Amparo "Pao" Sablan Deleon Guerrero Tenorio

December 15, 1932 – April 01, 2024

"Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me – put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you."
– Philippians 4:9

With Grateful Hearts

The sorrow and grief we endured with the untimely passing of a loving mother, grandmother, great grandmother, great, great grandmother, sister, aunt, cousin and friend

† AMPARO "PAO" SABLÁN DELEON GUERRERO TENORIO

pondered heavily on our hearts. Your love, words of comfort, unselfish support, kindness, and care have greatly helped us bear the pain of losing someone so dear to us. Your presence with us during the past weeks for the daily morning masses, nightly rosary, and especially during the wake and funeral day brought so much comfort and love to us in our time of deep grief.

We express our profound gratitude, yan sen Dangkulu na Si Yu'us Ma'ase to Bishop Ryan P. Jimenez, Reverend Father James S. Balajadia, Reverend Father Eric Paculu, Reverend Father Isaac Ayuyu, Reverend Father Jesse Reyes, Reverend Father Rey Rosal, Reverend Father Charlie Borja, and deacons for your all prayers, guidance, and services. To our rosary techa, Carlyn Joan DLG-Hofschneider, thank you for leading us faithfully in our rosary. To the Thaddeus Family Choir, your beautiful music helped uplift our spirits and assured us that our beloved "†Pao" is resting and safely home in God's paradise.

We are also grateful for all the doctors, nurses, and medical team, who cared for our beloved †Pao – thank you for the compassionate attention and professional care until her final days with us.

We are forever grateful for the gift of love and friendship from our dear relatives and friends, and we pray for God's endless love and mercy to bless us all every moment of our lives. During this Easter season, may the Risen Christ bring us closer together in love, peace, understanding, and friendship and make this Easter season deeply meaningful for us all.

God Bless, Thank You, and Si Yu'us Ma'ase,

*The Children and Families of † Amparo Sablan DeLeon Guerrero
and † Jose Carlos Pangelinan Tenorio*

last January, Albert said that they have some updates and developments.

"Aside from finishing the Al Fresco Deck, we will be launching our lunch specials and our 'Daily Fiestas' which include Tacos Tuesday, Churros Churdays, Filipino Heritage Night, and Ladies Night."

Albert and Saludez shared their gratitude to all their customers who have shown support since the restaurant's inception in Chalan Kanoa a couple of years ago.

"We want to say thank you to everyone who have supported

us since we opened shop back in Chalan Kanoa. You, our loyal customers are the reason why we continue to do what we do and strive to improve, refine, and enhance our brand as a whole," they said.

La Mesa Kusina, located beside R&J Wines and across T Bar along Beach Road, is open from Mondays to Saturdays, 11am-3pm and 5pm-10pm. For reservations or for more information, call (670) 234-6372. They're also on Facebook and Instagram.



CHRYSTAL MARINO

La Mesa Kusina's completed deck gives customers an outdoor experience while dining and adds more space for patrons.

PIC donates 250 water park passes for ARC Walkathon



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pacific Islands Club Saipan general manager Dennis Seo with Red Cross-NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh along with Red Cross and PIC staff and volunteers.

Pacific Islands Club Saipan has generously donated 250 water park passes to help support the 35th Annual Red Cross Walkathon.

"PIC continues their tradition of providing water park passes for those helping to raise funds for the Red Cross" said John Hirsh, American Red Cross-NMI Chapter executive director.

"The E-Land Group, which includes PIC, has always prioritized helping the Red Cross and other non-profits here in the

CNMI. We are grateful for their generosity which enables us to accomplish our humanitarian work," he said.

The Red Cross Walkathon takes place on April 20 and starts at 6am at American Memorial Park. A \$20 donation includes refreshments, give-aways and a Walkathon T-shirt. A \$75 donation includes a PIC waterpark pass and other prizes.

For more information or to get a pledge form, call the Red Cross office at (670) 234-3459. (PR)

Life & Style

What Winnie the Pooh, Mickey Mouse can tell us about public domain, remix culture

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The giant stuffed bear, its face a twisted smile, lumbers across the screen. Menacing music swells. Shadows mask unknown threats. Christopher Robin begs for his life. And is that a sledgehammer about to pulverize a minor character’s head?

Thus unfolds the trailer for the 2023 movie “Winnie the Pooh: Blood and Honey,” a slasher-film riff on A.A. Milne’s beloved characters, brought to you by ... the expiration of copyright and the arrival of the classic children’s novel into the American public domain.

We were already living in an era teeming with remixes and repurposing, fan fictions and mashups. Then began a parade

of characters and stories, led by Winnie the Pooh and Mickey Mouse with many more to follow, marching into the public domain, where anyone can do anything with anything and shape it into a new generation of stories and ideas.

After a two-decade drought brought on by congressional extensions of the copyright period in 1998, works again began entering the public domain—becoming available for use without licensing or payment—in 2019. The public began to notice in 2022, when Winnie the Pooh was freed for use as the 95-year copyright period elapsed on the novel that introduced him.

That made possible “Blood and Honey—not to mention a sequel that dropped last



AP An actor dressed as Mickey Mouse greets visitors at the entrance to Magic Kingdom Park at Walt Disney World Resort, April 18, 2022, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

month, a forthcoming third and plans for a “Poohniverse” of twisted public domain characters including Bambi and Pinocchio. Pooh going

public was followed this year by a moment many thought would never come: the copyright expiration on the original version of Mickey Mouse, as he appeared in the 1928 Walt Disney short, “Steamboat Willie.”

The mouse and the bear are but the beginning. The heights of 20th century pop culture—Superman among them—lie ahead.

Classic characters, new stories, fresh mashups. Will it be all be a bonanza for makers? Are we entering a heyday of cross-generational collaboration or a plummet in intellectual property values as audiences get sick of seeing variations of the same old stories?

Does a murderous Pooh bear have something to show the 21st century entertainment world?

Films from Hollywood’s early talkie era have started to become public. King Kong, who has one of his enormous feet in the public domain already because of complications between companies that own a piece of him, will shed his remaining chains in 2029. Then, in the 2030s, Superman will soar into the public domain, followed in quick succession by Batman, the Joker and Wonder Woman.

The possibility of new stories is vast. So is the possibility of repetition. Classic stories and characters could get, well a bit tiresome.

“I don’t feel like it’s going to make that big a difference,” says Phil Johnston, an Oscar nominee who co-wrote Disney’s 2011 “Wreck-It-Ralph” and co-wrote and co-directed its sequel, 2018’s “Ralph Breaks the Internet.”

‘Civil War’ might be the year’s most explosive movie

NEW YORK (AP)—Alex Garland’s films have vividly conjured a virus-caused pandemic (2002’s “28 Days Later”), an uncontrollable artificial intelligence (2014’s “Ex Machina”) and, in his latest, “Civil War,” a near-future America in the throes of all-out warfare.

Most filmmakers with such a record might claim some knack for tapping into the zeitgeist. But Garland doesn’t see it that way. He’s dealing, he says, with omnipresent realities that demand no great leaps of vision. He wrote “Civil War” in 2020, when societies around the world were unraveling over COVID-19 and the prospect of societal breakdown was on ev-

eryone’s minds.

“That was pretty deafening back then,” Garland says. “So in a way, it’s slightly past zeitgeist. It’s actually oppressive.”

“Civil War” is an ominous attempt to turn widely held American anxieties into a violent, unsettling big-screen reality. Garland’s film opens Friday—the anniversary, to the day, of when the Civil War began in 1861. And it’s landing in movie theaters just months ahead of a momentous presidential election, making it potentially Hollywood’s most explosive movie of the year.

» Alex Garland thinks it’s just reporting

For months, the arrival of “Civil War” has been closely tracked as numerous trailers have drummed up intrigue. Texas and California aligned? “Science fiction,” wrote one mentor. Another said: “This single movie had the best 8 year marketing campaign of all time.”

Yet “Civil War” is something far more oblique than its matter-of-fact title. The film, which Garland wrote and directed, isn’t mapped directly against today’s polarization. In a war that’s already ravaged the country, California and Texas have joined forces against a fascist president (Nick Offerman) who’s seized a third term and disbanded the FBI.

A band of journalists (Kirsten Dunst, Cailee Spaeny, Wagner Moura) makes its way toward Washington, D.C. Much of the film’s disquiet comes from seeing visceral encounters of war—bombings, fire fights and executions — on contemporary American soil. (“Civil War,” to take advantage of tax breaks, was mostly shot in Georgia.) For everyone who has in recent years wondered “How bad can it get?”—here is a sobering answer.

“When things collapse, the speed at which they collapse tends to surprise people—in-

cluding people like intelligence officers whose job is to watch and predict when these things will happen,” Garland said in a recent interview. “Things are always in a slightly more dangerous state than they might appear.”

The rapidity with which society can disintegrate has long fascinated Garland, the 53-year-old British born filmmaker who emerged with the screenplay to the zombie apocalypse thriller “28 Days Later.” Western democracies, he says, can lean too much on their sense of exceptionalism. To him, “Civil War” isn’t an act of cynicism. It’s a warning shot.

“The consequences of it are so serious that to not take the threat seriously would, itself, be another kind of insanity,” says Garland. “It would just be complacent.”

In past election seasons, Hollywood has sometimes looked to channel, reflect or capitalize on political discord. Ahead of the 2020 election, Universal Pictures and Blumhouse Productions released “The Hunt,” a “Most Dangerous Game” riff in which liberals kidnap “rednecks” and “deplorables” to hunt on a private preserve. After the film became engulfed in right-wing criticism (then-President Trump said it was “made in order to inflame and cause chaos”), it was postponed. When “The Hunt” eventually hit theaters in March 2020, it revealed a more balanced satire of left and right than some feared.

Woman believes mother is playing favorites

DEAR ABBY: I am on a limited income. My younger sister, “Tara,” is a medical professional with disposable income she spends on frivolous things. I have one son, age 13; she has three children, ages 14, 10 and 3. Tara and I live a few miles apart; our mother lives 60 miles away. My mother keeps my sister’s kids every other week. She rarely keeps my son. I must bring my son to her; she drives all the way to Tara’s house to pick up her kids and take them home.

I have “borrowed” a rather decent sum of money from my mother. She regularly asks me about paying it back. She spends a lot of extra money on food for Tara’s kids because of their special dietary needs. Between that and all the driving back and forth, my mother has spent nearly twice as much catering to my sister as what I have borrowed in the same amount of time.

I feel this is very one-sided and that, for some reason, my mother cares more about Tara than about me. I also feel like my son is neglected by my mother. Am I wrong for feeling like this? Should I say something or just leave it alone?

LOPSIDED IN GEORGIA

DEAR LOPSIDED: It appears you are jealous of your sister for many reasons. Your mother has the right to spend her time and money on whatever she pleases, as does your

sister. I don’t know why your mother favors Tara’s children. Perhaps it’s time to ask her why.

As to her request you repay the money she has loaned you, I suggest you work out a repayment plan starting NOW in the hope that it will improve your relationship with her. But if that doesn’t happen, arrange for someone else to watch your son.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: When I met my husband, I felt valued. But ever since I got pregnant, he no longer considers my feelings or treats me as a priority. I have to beg for his support, but when his mom and sister need help, he is quick to help them.

The reason I married him was because he seemed loyal and dedicated to his family, and I thought he would be that way with us. However, during the last few months of my pregnancy I have felt ignored. He is not really excited about the baby, and we haven’t bonded while I am pregnant.

I feel like I’m the last item on his list. I am slowly detaching from him. Even if things change when the baby is here, I don’t think I’ll respect him or have those love feelings anymore. I now see him in a different light that I find unattractive. Please help.

AT A CROSSROADS IN MAINE

DEAR CROSSROADS: Before this goes any further,

DEAR ABBY
BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

recognize that you have steered yourself to a fork in the road. The path you should take is the one that leads to your OB-GYN’s office. Your doctor should be told what is happening in your head and in your marriage because you could be experiencing symptoms of pre-partum depression. Do not put this off. Your baby is going to need a father, and the further you distance yourself from your husband, the less likely it will be that they have one.

■■■

To receive a collection of Abby’s most memorable -- and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



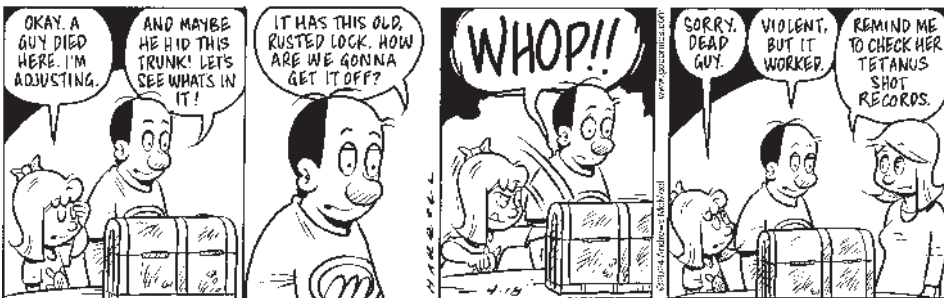
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Painter
5 Beer
8 RCA
12 Six-sided state
13 Rowing need
14 Aviation prefix
15 NYC gallery
16 Dad on "Black-ish"
17 Slanted type (Abbr.)
18 Rival of Athens
20 Brzezinski of MSNBC
22 Attraction in Banff National Park
26 Thin cookie
29 Sports-caster Scully
30 PBS supporter
31 Love god
32 Cacophony
33 Tempo

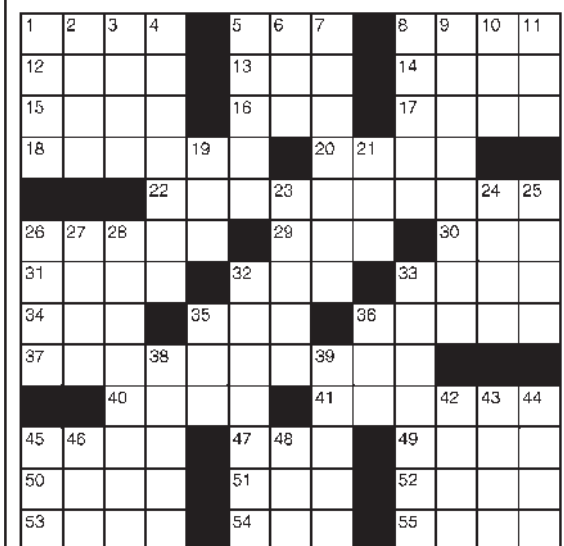
DOWN

34 Be sick
35 Camp bed
36 Bar orders
37 Ski resort in New York state
40 Duel
41 Mountain inns
45 "Trust Exercise" author Susan
47 Showtime rival
49 Speck
50 Prince in "Frozen"
51 "— a Camera"
52 Crazy
53 Rim
54 Snooze

19 Sailor
21 Bit of physics
23 Musical set in Argentina
24 Cauterize
25 Takes
26 Prosperity
27 Met solo
28 Pete Seeger composition
32 Florida foot-baller
33 Linen closet items
35 IRS employee
36 Life story
38 Actress Kimberly
39 Walk heavily
42 Rise
43 Jazzy
44 James
45 "Evita" role
46 Possessed
48 Sheepish remark

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 4-18



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: America Ferrera, 40; Melissa Joan Hart, 48; Conan O'Brien, 61; Jane Leeves, 63.

Happy Birthday: Stop putting pressure on yourself, and implement changes that point you in a desired direction. Take responsibility for your happiness, look for opportunities to engage in activities or explore uplifting options that give way to new beginnings. Let go of whatever holds you back and embrace what motivates you most. Following your heart is your ticket to success. Your numbers are 3, 16, 20, 28, 32, 41, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Pick up the pace, show enthusiasm and finish what you start. Make the most of what you've got, and you will leave a lasting impression. An unorthodox path will change the way you view life and help you discover what's important to you. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Keep personal information private. Listen, be attentive and learn all you can from observing others, and it will help you make better decisions. Distance yourself from those using pressure tactics. Choose to do what's comfortable for you rather than what's convenient for someone else. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't underestimate using the power of persuasion. Think carefully before agreeing to something debatable. It is mandatory to research and go through the necessary steps to ensure you understand what's involved and how much it will cost. Hibernate until you feel comfortable moving forward. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Listen; the information you gather will shield you from mistakes and regrets. Don't be afraid to put

your personal touch on whatever you do; the satisfaction and confidence you gain will encourage you to trust in your abilities. Live life your way. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Calm down, relax and absorb what's transpired. A transparent response will encourage others to be honest and respect your relationship. Make changes for the right reason, and don't take on too much or take responsibility for someone else's mistake. Love is on the rise. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Learn from the experience and correct what's necessary to make life easier. Change will take you to a better place and bring you peace of mind. Direct your time and energy into being and doing your best, and happiness will follow. A lifestyle change looks promising. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Broaden your awareness and connections. Sign up for something you believe in or want to pursue, and you'll find your tribe. Communication and an act of kindness will open doors and encourage personal growth and happiness. Romance is in the stars. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Act now. Dreaming will frustrate you if you don't follow through. Get involved in something that interests you and discover what life offers. Say no to anyone trying to pressure you, and refuse to let anyone stand in your way. Live life your way. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Trust your instincts and intelligence. Refuse to let anyone manipulate you into something that makes you feel uncomfortable. Choose your friends and pastimes carefully, and say no to anyone trying to make you feel guilty for not wanting to participate in their plans. ★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Put your energy where you'll get the highest return. Focus on how you earn your living and handle your cash; you'll save yourself the worry and torment of debt. Wise decisions will encourage you to find pleasure in things you can afford. ★★★



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A steady pace forward is the best way to soothe your soul. Refuse to get caught in someone's drama or persuasive tactics to throw you off track. Call the shots, and you'll earn respect. You can't please everyone, but you can satisfy yourself. ★★★



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Keep your spirits high and control your emotions. Actions speak louder than words, and how you handle others and your responsibilities will make a difference in the outcome. Direct your energy and what you are willing to do strategically. ★★★

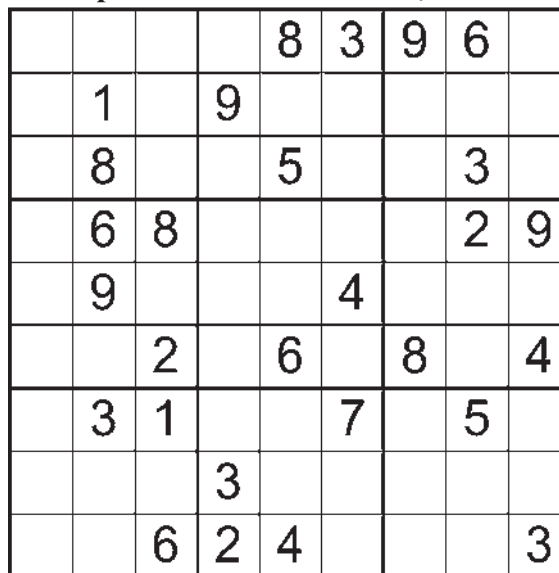
Birthday Baby: You are opportunity-driven, insistent and charming. You are secretive and pioneering.

★: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ★★: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ★★★: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ★★★★★: Aim high; start new projects. ★★★★★: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



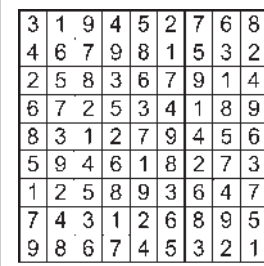
Difficulty: ★★★

4/18

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer



Difficulty: ★★★

4/17

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them. Circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

HOOD CHAIRS

Solution: 8 letters



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Abington, Antique, Area, Armrest, Astoria, Auction, Canopy, Color, Cotton, Cover, Dollhouse, Door, Dyed, Egg Shape, Enclosed, England, Envelope, Estate, Event, France, Front, Hollowed, Home, Hood, Knocker, Leather, Lounge, Northampton, Notch, Office, Orkney, Parade, Party, Porter, Room, Salon, Seat, Straw, Textile, Throne, Tint, Velvet, Vintage, Walcott

Last Friday's Answer: Coast Guard

The NEW Treasury 58 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6486. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367.)

Kings eliminate Warriors from play-in tournament



SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—The chants of “Light the Beam!” started midway through the fourth quarter as the Sacramento Kings kept piling on the Golden State Warriors.

A year after having their season ended by their neighbors, the Kings dealt the Warriors a bit of payback in emphatic fashion with a victory that might have signaled the end of a dynasty.

Keegan Murray scored 32 points, De’Aaron Fox added 24 and the Kings stayed alive in the play-in tournament, eliminating the Warriors with a 118-94 victory on Tuesday night.

“We knew what was on the line,” Fox said. “This was just another obstacle in our way. We have to get over this hump. Obviously, losing to this team last year and obviously facing this team now, it’s like, of course we have to face this team.”

Sacramento advanced to play at New Orleans on Friday night with a chance to return to the playoffs as the eighth seed in the Western Conference after snapping an NBA-record 16-year playoff drought last season.

The Kings avenged a Game 7 loss at home to Golden State in last year’s first round by playing cleaner and being quicker to loose balls against the older Warriors in what was one of the most consequential wins for the franchise in two decades.

The loss kept Golden State out of the playoffs for the third time in the past five seasons, including two eliminations in the play-in tournament. The Warriors committed 16 turnovers, gave up 15 offensive rebounds and way too many open 3-pointers, looking nothing like the dynastic team that won four titles from 2015-22.

“I was a sophomore in high school watching them win championships,” Fox said. “We’ve been watching this team for a long time. If it is the end, it is what it is. I’m glad we’re able to beat this team at this at this moment but, they definitely had a hell of a run.”

Klay Thompson missed all 10 shots from the field in what could have been his final game with the Warriors as he heads to unrestricted free agency this summer and a potential break-up of the championship trio of Thompson, Stephen Curry and Draymond Green.

“We need Klay back. I know he had a tough night tonight,” coach Steve Kerr said. “I know I speak for everyone in the organization, we want him back. Obviously, there’s



Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry sits on the court during the second half of the team’s NBA basketball play-in tournament game against the Sacramento Kings, Tuesday, April 16, 2024, in Sacramento, Calif.

business at hand and that has to be addressed. ... But what Klay has meant to this franchise, as good as he is, we definitely want him back.”

With Thompson struggling, Curry didn’t get nearly enough help. Curry finished with 22 points but was hounded for much of the game by Keon Ellis.

The undrafted Ellis, who was on a two-way contract until February, added 15 points to go with his strong defense. Harrison Barnes scored 17 and Domantas Sabonis had 16 points and 12 rebounds for Sacramento.

“For the most part, they just took it to us the whole game,” Curry said. “There’s really no way around it.”

The meeting between the Northern California rivals separated by less than 100 miles was a rematch of last year’s series won by Golden State. Curry scored 50 points in the seventh game.

The crowd was loud from the start even if the energy didn’t quite reach the level of last year’s matchup, when Sacramento fans celebrated the end of the record-long playoff drought.

Murray hit four 3-pointers in the first quarter and the Kings built their lead to 16 points in the second quarter

before the Warriors rallied behind their bench to cut the deficit to 54-50 at the half.

Golden State got within one early in the third quarter before Sacramento responded with a 19-5 run keyed by a pair of 3-pointers from Ellis and more big shots from Murray to build the lead back to 15 points. The Kings were never threatened after that.

“The first play was for me and we just kind of kept going to that early on in the game,” Murray said. “When you’re shot is falling, especially when mine is falling, they always seem to find me.”

LAKERS 110, PELICANS 106

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—LeBron James, Anthony Davis and their supporting cast have the Los Angeles Lakers looking like a tougher out in the playoffs than they appeared to be just a few weeks earlier.

The New Orleans Pelicans, meanwhile, find themselves on the brink of elimination and wondering about the health of star power forward Zion Williamson, whose dominant NBA postseason debut was cut short by an injury in the final minutes of a tight game.

James had 23 points, nine assists and nine rebounds, and the Lakers secured a playoff

berth with a 110-106 victory over the Pelicans in the Western Conference play-in tournament on Tuesday night.

“Tonight we showcased what we were able to do both offensively and defensively,” said James, whose team enters the playoffs having won 12 of 15 games. “We’ve got a good group going right now, good rotation, good plan and guys are coming in ready to go.”

Williamson had 40 points and 11 rebounds. But shortly after tying the game at 95 on a driving layup with 3:19 to go, Williamson went to the locker room, throwing a towel to the floor in disgust as he walked into the tunnel with an apparent injury.

After the game, Pelicans coach Willie Green said Williamson had “left leg soreness.”

“He’s going to have some imaging on it tomorrow and we’ll figure out more,” Green said.

Soon after Williamson went out, James hit a jumper, Davis dunked Austin Reaves’ alley-oop lob, DeAngelo Russell hit a 3 and Davis grabbed a crucial offensive rebound, after which he hit two free throws to help the Lakers hold on.

The Pelicans “threw some heavy blows at us,” Lak-

ers coach Darvin Ham said. “They kept swinging. We kept fighting back.”

“It revealed a lot about us and what we’re made of,” he added.

Davis finished with 20 points and 15 rebounds. Russell scored 21, hitting five times from deep. James was 10 of 10 on free throws and Davis 8 of 10.

The Lakers advance to face defending champion Denver in the first round in a rematch of last season’s Western Conference finals, a sweep by the Nuggets. Game 1 is Saturday night.

The Pelicans will host Sacramento on Friday, with the winner earning the No. 8 seed in the West. The Kings eliminated Golden State in the later play-in game on Wednesday night.

“Obviously a tough loss for us,” said Green, whose team could have secured the sixth seed in the playoffs on Sunday but lost at home to the Lakers, 124-108, setting up the rematch in the play-in. “We’ve got to feel this one tonight and regroup and get ready for another one.”

Williamson, Green said, was “fantastic.”

“He settled into the game. He just continued to attack. He found seams. He rebound-

ed the ball. He played fast,” Green continued. “(If) we have him for a few more minutes, maybe we have a chance to pull this thing out.”

The Lakers went 14 of 35 from 3-point range. The Pelicans hit 9 of 29 from deep and Williamson didn’t get a lot of help from the Pelicans’ usual high scorers. Brandon Ingram—in his second game back from a 12-game absence because of a knee injury.—missed 8 of 12 shots and finished with 11 points after spending the final few minutes on the bench.

“I just like the group that was on the floor at that time,” Green said. “BI is still getting back, he’s still finding his rhythm. So, I didn’t want to force the issue.”

CJ McCollum missed 11 of 15 shots and scored nine points.

Trey Murphy III scored 12, hitting two 3s from beyond 28 feet in the second half to help New Orleans come back from an 18-point second-half deficit to tie it.

The Lakers led 75-57 after Rui Hachimura’s layup in the third quarter. But New Orleans got back in the game by outscoring Los Angeles 19-8 during the final 5:31 of the period.

Williamson sparked the surge with a pair of layups. Murphy pulled up for a 31-foot 3-pointer in the final minute of the quarter and Williamson’s free throw made it 83-76 at the end of the period.

The Pelicans finally tied it when Williamson slammed down Jose Alvarado’s alley-oop lob in transition to make it 93-all with 3:53 to go.

Looking to redeem themselves for a lackluster loss to the Lakers on Sunday, the Pelicans put together a promising opening quarter and took a 34-28 lead on Herb Jones’ 3.

Los Angeles surged into the lead by outscoring New Orleans 34-16 in the second quarter, leading by as many as 14 after James, who had 15 first-half points, hit two free throws to make it 58-44.

In the final seconds of the half, Williamson sprinted nearly the length of the court on the dribble for a floating layup at the horn that made it 60-50.

NBA average attendance was 18,324 this season, 71% of games were sellouts

NEW YORK (AP)—Attendance was up 1.4% in the NBA this season, with the league setting a slew of records for ticket sales and sellouts.

The total attendance in the regular season that ended Sunday was 22,538,518, the league said—the second con-

secutive season in which the NBA set that record. Other records set this season included 873 sellouts, 71% of games selling out and the average attendance of 18,324.

The previous marks in those categories: 22,234,502 for total attendance, 791 sellouts,

63% of games selling out and average attendance of 18,077. All were set in the 2022-23 season.

In all, the league said arenas were filled to 98% capacity, another record.

Part of the reason for the attendance boost was the suc-

cess of the In-Season Tournament, which was held this season for the first time in November and December. The NBA’s average attendance for those November games around the league was 18,208, another record.

There were 12 teams—

Boston, Cleveland, Dallas, Denver, Golden State, Miami, Milwaukee, Minnesota, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Sacramento and Utah—that sold out every game. Fans from more than 150 countries and territories purchased tickets to games, the league said.

Detroit scores on a wild pitch to beat Texas, 4-2



DETROIT
(AP)—Gio Urshela had

an RBI single and Matt Vierling scored on a wild pitch in the eighth inning to put Detroit ahead, and the Tigers' pitchers continued their solid play to beat Texas.

Andrew Chafin (1-0) worked 1 1/3 hitless innings with three strikeouts. Jason Foley retired pinch-hitter Adolis Garcia with two on in the ninth for his fifth save of the season.

Casey Mize, making his first home start since April 9, 2022, went six innings, allowing two runs and five hits. Mize missed most of the 2022 season and all of the 2023 campaign after undergoing Tommy John surgery and a back operation.

Jose Urena (0-2) took the loss for the Rangers.

The Tigers improved to 3-3 on the club's current 10-game homestand. Since opening the season 5-0, Detroit has gone 5-7.



Detroit Tigers pitcher Jason Foley throws during the ninth inning of a baseball game against the Texas Rangers, Tuesday, April 16, 2024, in Detroit.

PHILLIES 5, ROCKIES 0

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Ranger Suárez pitched a seven-hitter, Bryce Harper homered and Philadelphia beat Colorado.

Suárez struck out eight and walked one in the majors' second complete game this season. It was the first shutout for a Philadelphia pitcher since Michael Lorenzen's no-hitter against Washington on Aug. 9.

Harper hit an RBI double in the sixth inning and a two-run shot in the eighth.

J.T. Realmuto also went deep for Philadelphia (10-8), which moved two games over .500 for the first time this season.

Suárez (3-0) threw 112 pitches, 79 for strikes, in his second career complete game. The left-hander retired Nolan Jones on a comebacker for the final out.

ORIOLES 11, TWINS 3

BALTIMORE (AP)—Gunnar Henderson, Jordan Westburg and Ryan O'Hearn homered, Grayson Rodriguez pitched six solid innings and Baltimore trounced Minnesota.

Colton Cowser had two more hits for the Orioles, who have taken the first two games of this series. Rodriguez (3-0) allowed two runs and four hits. He walked three and struck out six.

It was the fourth straight game Baltimore homered at least three times, the first time the team has had a streak that long since 2013.

MARLINS 6, GIANTS 3

MIAMI (AP)—Ryan Weathers struck out a career-high 10 before departing because of cramps in his left hand, and Miami beat San Francisco.

Weathers (2-1) allowed two runs and five hits in six innings. The left-hander warmed up for the seventh, but was re-

placed by Burch Smith.

Luis Arraez had two hits and two RBIs for the Marlins, who improved to 4-14. Josh Bell also had two hits and scored a run.

METS 3, PIRATES 1

NEW YORK (AP)—Jose Hernandez balked home the go-ahead run in the seventh inning, Jeff McNeil added an RBI double and the New York Mets beat Pittsburgh.

Joey Wendle came off the bench and delivered a tying double in the seventh for the Mets, who have won nine of 12 following an 0-5 start to move over .500 for the first time since early June last year.

New York came back to beat the Pirates for the second consecutive night and has won four straight series after dropping its first two.

Wendle replaced an ailing Brett Baty (left hamstring tightness) at third base in the top of the seventh and doubled off Luis Ortiz (1-1) moments later. That scored Francisco Lindor, who drew a one-out walk from Ortiz and went to third on Pete Alonso's sharp single to center.

BLUE JAYS 5, YANKEES 4

TORONTO (AP)—Vladimir Guerrero Jr. reached base four times and had two RBIs, Yusei Kikuchi won for the first time this season and Toronto beat New York.

Bo Bichette hit an RBI single and Justin Turner added a sacrifice fly as the Blue Jays became the first opponent to win a series against the Yankees this year. New York had won its first five series for the third time in franchise history, matching its starts of 1926 and 2010.

Guerrero went 2 for 3 with two walks and two singles.

Kikuchi (1-1) allowed one run and three hits in six in-

nings with one walk and nine strikeouts, which matched his season high

RAYS 7, ANGELS 6, 13 INNINGS

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Amed Rosario drove in the winning run with an infield single and Tampa Bay scored twice in the 13th inning to complete a late comeback and beat the Los Angeles Angels.

Each team scored once in the 10th and 11th innings and the Angels moved ahead in the top of the 13th.

Richie Palacios got the Rays even at 6 with a two-out double in the bottom half of the inning against Carson Fulmer (0-1). Rosario then had a bases-loaded hit down the third-base line that scored Palacios and won it.

Los Angeles starter José Soriano allowed one run and one hit over five innings in his second major league start.

PADRES 6, BREWERS 3

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Dylan Cease pitched six strong innings, Ha-Seong Kim hit a three-run homer and San Diego beat Milwaukee.

Fernando Tatis Jr. had three hits and scored twice as the Padres handed the Brewers their first series loss of the season. San Diego will try to complete a three-game sweep Wednesday afternoon.

Sal Frelick had three of the Brewers' six hits, and William Contreras drove in two runs.

GUARDIANS 10, RED SOX 7, 11 INNINGS

BOSTON (AP)—José Ramírez hit a tiebreaking RBI single in the 11th inning, and Cleveland beat Boston.

With no outs and runners on first and second, Ramírez hit a low liner back up the mid-

dle against Josh Winckowski (1-1). After Brayan Rocchio sacrificed and Bo Naylor was walked intentionally, Estevan Florial added a two-run single.

Cleveland closer Emmanuel Clase (1-0) pitched the 10th for the win, surrendering a tying sacrifice fly to Connor Wong. Scott Barlow got three outs for his first save of the season, striking out two.

Gabriel Arias had two hits and two RBIs for the Guardians, who earned their third consecutive victory. Steven Kwan had three hits and scored twice, and Tyler Freeman homered.

BRAVES 6, ASTROS 2

HOUSTON (AP)—Reynaldo López struck out seven over six scoreless innings, Orlando Arcia homered and Atlanta beat Houston.

López (2-0) allowed four hits and walked one in his third straight sterling outing to start the season. He has given up one run in 18 innings for an ERA of 0.50.

Arcia hit a solo home run to left in the second and a sacrifice fly in the seventh.

Luis Guillorme and Chadwick Tromp each hit a two-run double in the ninth to put the Braves ahead 6-0.

Kyle Tucker homered for the Astros leading off the ninth against Aaron Bummer, and Mauricio Dubón had a two-out RBI single to cut the lead to four. After Bummer walked Chas McCormick to put two on, Raisel Iglesias induced a groundout by Victor Caratini to end it and secure his fourth save.

CARDINALS 3, ATHLETICS 2

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Lance Lynn earned his first win for the St. Louis Cardinals in seven years with a

victory over Oakland.

Lynn (1-0) allowed two runs—one earned—and five hits in seven innings, lowering his ERA to 2.18 in four starts. The 36-year-old right-hander went 72-47 for the Cardinals from 2011-17. After pitching for five other teams, he returned to St. Louis during the offseason for an \$11 million, one-year contract.

JoJo Romero and Ryan Helsley each got three straight outs, with Helsley earning his major league-leading seventh save in eight chances.

Masyn Winn and Jordan Walker hit consecutive sacrifice flies off Dany Jiménez (1-1) as the Cardinals overcame a 2-1 deficit in the sixth. Nolan Arenado led off with a single, Jiménez issued back-to-back walks and center fielder JJ Bleday heaved the ball home with no chance for a play on Winn's fly, allowing the other two runners to advance.

MARINERS 3, REDS 1

SEATTLE (AP)—Logan Gilbert allowed three hits in 6 2/3 innings of one-run ball, Julio Rodríguez made two highlight defensive plays in the seventh inning to preserve Seattle's lead, and the Mariners beat Cincinnati.

Jonatan Clase had an RBI double in his second major league game and Mitch Haniger added a key two-out RBI single. But Gilbert was overpowering for most of the night and got help from Rodríguez in the field.

Rodríguez ran down Spencer Steer's drive to deep left-center on the warning track for the second out of the seventh inning. Gilbert was pulled after walking Jake Fraley. Elly De La Cruz walked against reliever Andrés Muñoz, and Cincin-

nati looked like it was going to pull within one run after Nick Martini singled.

DODGERS 6, NATIONALS 2

LOS ANGELES—Mookie Betts tied his career high with five hits, doubling twice and driving in two runs to lead Los Angeles over Washington.

Betts singled leading off the first against Patrick Corbin (0-3) and scored as Teoscar Hernández grounded into a double play. Betts hit an RBI double that increased the lead to 3-0 in the second, singled in the fourth, doubled and scored in the seventh and hit a run-scoring single that drove in the Dodgers' final run in the eighth.

Betts raised his average to a major league-leading .388. It was the third five-hit game of Betts' big league career, the first since Aug. 23 against Cleveland.

Andy Pages, a 23-year-old Cuban outfielder, went 1 for 4 in his major league debut for the Dodgers. He lined an opposite-field single to right on the first big league pitch he saw, a 91.9 mph fastball in the second inning, then scored on Austin Barnes' single.

Jesse Winker hit a two-run homer for the Nationals, who have alternated wins and losses over the past four games.

DIAMONDBACKS 12, CUBS 11, 10 INNINGS

PHOENIX (AP)—Ketel Marte hit a tying solo homer with two outs in the ninth, and Randal Grichuk won it with a pinch-hit RBI double in the 10th, lifting Arizona to a wild victory over Chicago.

The teams split the first two games of the series, which both went into extra innings. They'll play the finale on Wednesday.

Grichuk ripped the second pitch he saw from Drew Smyly (2-2) into the left-center gap, easily scoring Christian Walker from second as D-backs players poured onto the field to celebrate.

The Cubs rallied from two three-run deficits, but still couldn't get the win. Ian Happ hit a go-ahead grand slam as part of a six-run seventh inning that gave Chicago an 11-8 lead. But the D-backs slowly clawed back. Arizona cut the margin to 11-9 in the seventh on Blaze Alexander's double and 11-10 in the eighth on Joc Pederson's sacrifice fly.

Then came Marte's homer off Cubs closer Adbert Alzolay—a liner that barely cleared the right-center wall. After an official review, the homer was confirmed. Marte finished with four hits.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The Marianas High School Lady Dolphins varsity

softball team are the only undefeated team with three wins in as many games in the Inaugural SBL-PSS Interscholastic Girls High School Slow Pitch Softball League 2023-2024.

Their most recent win was last Tuesday in a makeup game against Mount Carmel School and they blew them out, 23-3. MHS V also won against Kagman High School V, 12-11, last April 8, and opened up the season with a win against Saipan Southern High School, 17-7, last March 18.

Against MCS, the Lady Dolphins' bats made contact in almost every at-bat and pummeled MCS pitcher Mia Yobei with run after run. They wasted no time as they scored eight runs in the first inning, while MCS' three runs came in the first inning as well for an 8-3 game.

The Lady Dolphins went on to score four in the second, then blew the game wide open even more in the third with 11 runs to make it

MHS only undefeated team in girls softball



Marianas High School varsity third basewoman Ti'ana Mae Villanueva makes the catch on a pop fly during one of their games in the Inaugural SBL-PSS Interscholastic Girls High School Slow Pitch Softball League 2023-2024 at the Dandan Softball Field.



A Marianas High School varsity batter swings at a pitch during one of their games in the Inaugural SBL-PSS Interscholastic Girls High School Slow Pitch Softball League 2023-2024 at the Dandan Softball Field.

Sheira Dela Rosa, Angelina George, Deivalyn Ham, Tamia Hix, Loraena Lucas, Pattylyn Mendiola, Jessica Merifel, Vileene Norita, Destiny Pangelinan, Benicia Sablan, Daviann Sablan, Direnalyn Castro, and Ti'ana Mae Villanueva.

In other results last Monday, KHS notched their first win after they beat SSHS, 11-7; KHS grabbed their second win after a 28-5 win over MHS JV; and SSHS claimed their second win after they outscored MCS, 17-2.

The last regular season game is on Monday, April 22, between MHS V and MHS JV at 2:30pm, followed by KHS vs. MCS at 4pm.

The championship series is slated for April 25, 26, and 27.

WSR

From page 16

cio's 26m throw; and third was Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School's Geovanni Moses at 25.21m.

For the 9U girls division, Lanissa Blas was the only one who completed it with a throw of 16.82m.

In the 12U boys division, Salman Kamal had the longest distance of 38.1m; second was KagES' Chase Cruz at 33.77m; and third was KagES' Zackery Quitugua at 32.34m.

Anica Agumon was first in the 12U girls division with a throw of 31.94m, while Mount Carmel School's Neia Tagabuel was second at 23.09, and WSR's Reana Acosta was third with 21.84m.

In the track events, GTC's Oshean Garde was the fastest

overall in the 9U boys 1,500m with a time of 6:22.39. Second was Saipan International School's Gabriel Walsh at 6:24.90, while teammate Ezra West secured third at 6:29.35.

SIS' Olivia Walsh claimed first in the 9U girls 1,500m division with a time of 7:56.65; second was Brilliant Star School's Aya Smith at 8:00.20; and third was SIS' Cassidy Ada with a time of 8:48.93.

In the 12U boys 1,500m division, GTC's Orion Garde was the fleetest afoot at 6:16.71; second was KagES' Benaiah Murphy with 6:27.70; and third went to SIS' Jake Duenas at 7:08.12.

In the 12U girls 1,500m, BSS' Lovel Spaeth was first at 6:39.55; second was SIS' Windsor Gross with 6:40.53; and third was Kaylen Taflinger who clocked in at 6:44.60.

The 9U boys 400m was dominated overall by West at 1:18.91; second was teammate Gabriel Walsh at 1:21.79; and third went to GTC's Tamjeed Ullah at 1:25.76.

The 9U girls 400m first place overall was Olivia Walsh with a time of 1:26.97; second was GTC's Seraphina Alvarez at 1:31.21; and third was MCS' Chloe Mostales at 1:33.85.

In the 12U boys 400m, KagES' Ishmael Bhuiyan was first overall at 1:19.24; second was Duenas at 1:21.30; and third was Kamal at 1:26.08.

Spaeth once again was the fastest in the 12U girls 400m with a time of 1:16.23; second was Gross at 1:18.35; and third was WSR's Anica Aquino at 1:20.54.

In the 9U boys 100m, Indalecio was the fastest overall

with his time of 14.98 seconds; second was WSR's Jesus Acosta at 16 seconds flat; and third was teammate Aaron Martino at 17.07 seconds.

Zarina Sumor topped the 9U girls 100m with a tie of 17.55 seconds; second was MCS' Lauricia Tagabuel at 18.04 seconds; and third was MCS' Chloe Mostales at 18.23 seconds.

In the 12U boys 100m, first overall was BSS' Antsha Heras at 15.12 seconds; second went to Vincent Cruz of GTC at 15.37 seconds; and third was Quitugua at 15.63 seconds.

Lastly, in the 12U girls 100m, Spaeth was first overall again with a time of 15.26 seconds; second was Sepa Babauta at 15.71 seconds; and third was SIS' Neveah Arriola at 15.85 seconds.

LA

From page 16

sion against Aussie Benjamin Chisholm before he and Hiva Kelley of Tahiti dropped a 3-6, 3-6 match against Jacob Cairncross and Harry Forsyth, also of Australia.

"I played pretty good for singles match but I wasn't playing well enough tactically and lost 6-4 6-4, but I learned something after the match so it was a good experience. I played doubles with

Hiva Kelley, who is a good friend of mine and we played really good. We had one game that we were up, 40-15, and another game that we were up 40-0. We couldn't get the break off of our opponents' serve and they broke us two times. I think we should have come to the net more and won the important points. Overall, the first week was a good tactical experience," said Lam.

When asked how it felt as a 14-year-old playing in the

J30 tourney against older and more experienced tennis players, Lam said the experience was invaluable.

"The level of ITF J30 is pretty good since it's under 18. Most of the good players are in their 17s and they are well experienced. I am trying to keep my returns with a shorter back swing because their first serves are big and I have to keep my shots selection good to win more games. It's a very good experience for me to improve my

game tactically," he said.

CNMI national coach Jeff Race gave kudos to Lam for toughing it out against an older and more experienced field in Fiji.

"La Hunn has played in at least four ITF tournaments before this. He's getting better all the time and it's just a matter of time before he gets his first points. He has another one in Fiji next week (Week 2) and three in May. He'll play the two in Guam and one on Saipan."

MPU

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one more goal in the first half for good measure, and in the blink of an eye, it was 3-0. Latte still couldn't convert any goals in the second half, but managed to shut down MP United's offense. However, Latte left MP United's goals unanswered until time ran out and fell to contend in the third place spot.

In Shirley's match, they got to work quickly as Jeraldine Castillo nipped the net in the sixth minute to open up the game, 1-0. Teammate Marilou Arriola then found an opening nine minutes later, and it was 2-0.

Castillo then broke the game wide open with a follow-up shot in the 22nd minute to make it 3-0, all while Matansa was still trying to get their gears going. Matansa came up with nothing but air

throughout the first half, while Castillo collected a hat-trick in the 41st minute for a 4-0 game.

Matansa, however, wouldn't let up and made attack after attack at Shirley's goal. It paid off in the 51st minute when they finally got on board with a goal from Barbara Peteru, 1-4. It was still a long uphill battle to either draw or take the win, and Matansa tried to rally.

Pinyarat Shankweiler then cut Shirley's lead in half after a goal four minutes after Peteru, for a 2-4 game. However, Shirley's went on to shut them down for the rest of the second half and held on to win and advance to the finals.

MP United Pink is facing off against Shirley's in the finals this Sunday, April 21, at 5:15pm.

The third-place game between Latte FC and Matansa FC takes place on the same day at 4pm.



**Kings
eliminate
Warriors
from play-in
tournament.**

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Saipan Tribune Sports

**MHS only
undefeated
team
in girls
softball.**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

MPU Pink, Shirley's to vie for Intermediate title



NMIFA

A Shirley's Football Club player, left, goes up against an MP United FC player during one of the games in the Flores-Pee Luwal (Intermediate) Spring 2024 Dove Women's League at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

By **LEIGH GASES**
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

MP United Pink Football Club and Shirley's FC are vying for the Flores-Pee Luwal (Intermediate) Spring 2024 Dove Women's League title after defeating their foes in the semis last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

MP United Pink made light work of Latte FC, 3-0, while Shirley's held off Matansa FC, 4-2.

Both MP United Pink and Latte had a tough first 10 minutes of the match as they attempted to maneuver past each other on the pitch. Exchanges led to nothing until MP United's Michelle Masga made a run for the net and

notched the first goal in the 13th minute.

Latte then scrambled to make a play but came up short most of the time. Ten minutes later MP United's Rachel Salalila joined Masga on the scoreboard for a 2-nil game.

MP United's Doemiko Flores scorched the pitch with

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La Hunn wins first match in Week 2 of J30 in Fiji

By **MARK RABAGO**
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
EDITOR

La Hunn Lam debuted strong in Week 2 of the International Tennis Federation's J30 tournament last Monday in Lautoka, Fiji.

The 14-year-old CNMI netter beat New Zealand's Alvin Na in the first round of the boys 18 division, 7-6 (7-4), 6-1.

"I was losing 4-1 in the first set but I came back. It was 6-5 for the New Zealand player and he had two set points but I never gave up and won the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

La Hunn Lam in action in the International Tennis Federation's J30 tournament last Monday in Lautoka, Fiji.

game and won the tiebreaker, 7-4. In the second set I was playing more consistent and more aggressive than the other player," he said.

Lam said it also helped that he was "playing more consistent and smarter and also not giving him (Na) a chance to attack me by mov-

ing him around the court," after he went down big in the opening set.

He then thanked his family, CNMI national coach Jeff Race, the CNMI tennis national team, and all his friends for their continued support in his tennis career.

Lam's campaign on Week 2 of the J30 tournament continued with a loss to Australia's Bryan Dickson, 2-6, 1-6.

In the doubles, he and Junhyuk Seo of South Korea were beaten by China's Junzhang Fu and Yulin Li, 2-6, 0-6.

The week before in Week 1 of the J30 tourney, Lam lost both in the singles and doubles. He lost a 4-6, 4-6 deci-

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WSR leads softball throw in athletics

By **LEIGH GASES**
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

William S. Reyes Elementary School student-athletes in Group 1 led Event B's softball throw of the NMA/PSS All-Schools Track and Field 2023-2024 last

Complex track and field. Event B consists of the 100m, 400m, 1,500m, and the softball throw.

Zane Fujihira threw the farthest in the 9U boys division with a best of 27.75m; second was Kagman Elementary School's Daviray Indale-

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NMA

Elementary school NMA/PSS All-Schools Track and Field 2023-2024 participants from Saipan International School, Brilliant Star School, Kagman Elementary School, and William S. Reyes Elementary School pose for a photo during one of their meets at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field.